

## Theme Community Meeting Notes

November 5, 2020 (1:00-2:30 PM ET)

### Attendees

#### FGDC Staff

Name	Agency	Role(s)		Name	Agency	Role(s)	
Lorna Schmid	USGS	FGDC OS	✓	James Irvine	USGS	FGDC OS-CS	✓
John Mahoney	USGS	FGDC OS	✓	Robin Hoban	USGS	FGDC OS-CS	✓
Lynda Wayne	USGS	FGDC OS-CS	✓	Susan Harris	USGS	FGDC OS-CS	✓

#### Theme Community

Theme	Theme Lead/Co-Lead	✓	Agency	Proxy
Address	Matt Zimolzak		US Census Bureau	
Address	Steve Lewis	✓	DOT	
Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Marcia McNiff	✓	USGS	
Cadastral	Dominica VanKoten	✓	BLM	
Climate and Weather	Kari Sheets		NOAA	
Cultural Resources	Deidre McCarthy		NPS	
Elevation	Ashley Chappell Hill	✓	NOAA	
Elevation	Susan Buto	✓	USGS	
Geodetic Control	Daniel Roman	✓	NOAA	
Geology	Paul Godfriaux	✓	BOEM	
Geology	Dave Soller		USGS	
Governmental Units	Dierdre Bevington-Attardi	✓	US Census Bureau	
International Boundaries	Lee Schwartz		DOS	Eric Doornbos
Imagery	Greg Snyder	✓	USGS	
Imagery	John Mootz	✓	USDA	
Land Use - Land Cover	Jim Ellenwood	✓	USFS	
Land Use - Land Cover	Brad Reed		USGS	
Real Property	Valerie Butler	✓	GSA	
Soils	Drew Kinney		USDA	Steve Peaslee
Transportation	Derald Dudley	✓	DOT	
Utilities - Offshore	Jeff Harris	✓	BSEE	
Utilities - Terrestrial	TBD			
Water - Inland	Megan Lang	✓	FWS	
Water - Inland	Rebecca Anderson	✓	USGS	
Water - Oceans and Coasts	Patrick Keown	✓	NOAA	

## Other Attendees

Mark Ames; Craig Winn, NOAA; Nicole Rutherford, NOAA; Ron Salz, FWS; Andy Archer, BOEM; Chris Taylor, BOEM; Dom Menegus, DOT; Joel Schlagel, USACE; Justin Pummell; Mitch Bergeson; Matthew Bobo; Brian Meyer; Fran Coloma; Godfred Amponsah; Shirley Hall; Christy Rieser; David Thomas; Torrin Hultgren; Jeff Johnson; Jesse Osborne; Kiara Ray; Matt McCready; Frank Pendleton; Jason Stoker; Meagan Atkinson; Rick Mueller, USDA; Nancy Blyler, USACE; Terry Forline, GSA; Lora Turner; Will Freeman

## Agenda

- ❖ Welcome and Roll Call
- ❖ GeoPlatform.gov Presentation – Joel Schlagel
- ❖ Metadata Review Status and Next Steps
- ❖ NGDA Data Theme Changes
  - ❖ Pending NGDA Portfolio Changes
- ❖ GDA Reporting Review
  - ❖ Covered Agency (CA) Report Template
  - ❖ Lead Covered Agency (LCA) Report Template Development
  - ❖ NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory
  - ❖ Other Activities – NSDI SP and Circular A-16
- ❖ Open Discussion

## Summary of New Actions

Responsible Party	Description
Theme Leads and Dataset Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Proposed Dataset Changes</b> - Review proposed and pending changes to the NGDA Datasets to ensure they are correct. Email the <a href="mailto:NGDATeam@FGDC.gov">NGDATeam@FGDC.gov</a> for any questions about next steps.</li><li>• <b>Baseline Standards Inventory</b> – Please ensure that surveys have been submitted for all NGDA. Contact <a href="mailto:NGDATeam@FGDC.gov">NGDATeam@FGDC.gov</a> with any questions or issues accessing or completing the survey. <i>Final numbers will be submitted to OMB.</i></li><li>• <b>Use Cases</b> - Provide any available NGDA 'Use Cases' that describe management and delivery of NGDA Datasets supporting the user community. Existing use cases can be included with others being gathered and compiled for GDA reporting and future Theme plan development.</li><li>• <b>Metadata Review</b> – Review the email sent by Lorna on 1 November and invitation to MS Teams room sent on 25 October for details and next steps for NGDA metadata review and improvement process. Email the <a href="mailto:NGDATeam@FGDC.gov">NGDATeam@FGDC.gov</a> with any Teams room access issues or other questions.</li></ul>
Lorna Schmid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Timeline</b> – Send the updated reporting timeline out when available.</li><li>• <b>NGDA Changes</b> – Follow up with Marcia McNiff and other Theme Leads with NGDA changes pending DOI approval for next steps.</li><li>• <b>New Working Group</b> – Form a new Working Group to discuss future GeoPlatform architecture and GDA reporting requirements.</li></ul>

Lorna Schmid, Joel Schlagel, NGDA Portfolio and GeoPlatform Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GeoPlatform</b> – Follow up on future release and other discussion points identified: authoritative base maps, metadata schema/schematron, metadata harvesting schedule and potential triggers, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Next HIFLD / GeoPlatform Feedback Session</b> – Provide details on the next session when available.</li> <li>• <b>New Theme Lead and Dataset Manager Training</b> – Look at developing a training tutorial on GeoPlatform for new Theme Community members.</li> </ul>
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### Opening Remarks

Lorna: Welcome. We have Joel Schlagel with us today. Joel is Technical Lead for the GeoPlatform. He works with Tod DaBolt, the Managing Partner. Joel will be giving a presentation on what is coming in the next release of the GeoPlatform.gov and their plans around metadata.

### Presentation

*“GeoPlatform.gov... Update on the Next Release” - Joel Schlagel*

### GeoPlatform QnA

Ashley: Can you show the geospatial search by area or location? Will it be showing points, lines and polygons, or a geotif or GeoPDF of data?

Joel: It is a requirement and we’re definitely close to it. It will show points, lines and polygons, and rasters as well. We are doing a lot with raster tiles right now. We will support the imagery themes and points, lines, and polygons.

Lorna: We will also have multiple base maps to choose from too.

Joel: This is an example of the National Park Service ‘Park Tiles.’ If other Departments and Bureaus have base maps, we can include it as an option.

Chris: Will we need a separate metadata record for services?

Joel: No, the idea is that from the metadata, it would be clear which ones are the data downloads and which ones are the web services.

Lorna: As the changes are being made to the GeoPlatform, maybe we can make this a recurring part of this meeting so we can inform the community going forward. When do you anticipate rolling these out?

Joel: We’ll begin a gradual rollout over the holidays and be complete by February.

Q: How do the community pages figure into the search? We’ve had problems with the latest versions of the NGDA being returned on the community pages and synchronizing those with the main portfolio pages.

Joel: The really good idea we had in the current version of the Platform is an integrated search that searches documents, data, community content all in one search. If you aren't used to that, it may be complicated and confusing so we're going to break search out so there will be a geospatial search vs. content on community pages.

Lorna: We could put together a small team of interested Theme Leads to discuss that architecture and the requirements for Geospatial Data Act (GDA) reporting. The GDA is complicated and we want to make it as automated as possible to meet those requirements.

Matt: Is there a schema or schematron developed for the datasets? Since the NGDA metadata requirements are slightly different than the standard ISO metadata, a schematron would be a quick way to check before it is published on the GeoPlatform.

Lorna: We do have a cross walk between the CSDGM and the ISO and other metadata standards. We'll have to look at that moving forward as standards are core to the GDA. We can follow up on that.

Eric: Will base maps that users can choose from have their international boundaries modified to match those in the International Boundaries Theme?

Lorna: I don't know that we'll modify base maps supplied by others.

Joel: I think it is really important to have an authoritative base map.

Eric: The Department of State is interested in making sure that maps showing international boundaries reflect the foreign policy of the United States. The Open Street Map (OSM), for example, causes some issues when it shows up on .gov websites.

Joel: That's great feedback and we should take that into account.

Dan: I would argue that the underlying base map should use the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) to which the boundaries to everything should be snapped.

Joel: That's a great point. I'll follow up to make sure we're carefully considering what we're using for a base map.

Lorna: Another question posed is 'what FGDC Working Group is working on this?' I did mention that I thought it would be a good idea to put together a team that has NGDA data theme membership to discuss these issues. We want to make sure that we're incorporating the knowledge that the agencies have about the data that they are delivering and how we can maximize that data in the GeoPlatform.

**Action:** Establish a Working Group to discuss the GeoPlatform and GDA questions and requirements.

Becci: There are a lot of opportunities for us to contribute knowledge. We have a great topographic base map that we can contribute but I also want to make sure that NGDA

managing agencies have an understanding about the resources being asked of us. If we have to make changes to metadata going forward, that's work that we have to take on. I also want to make sure that we're on the same page about the resource requirements going forward.

Lorna: The goal is that the Metadata Guidelines that were published will reflect the requirements for metadata in the GeoPlatform going forward. So, the review that Lynda Wayne did [in the email sent to Theme Leads and Dataset Managers on 1 November] is based on the current Guidelines. The NGDA Portfolio Management and the GeoPlatform Teams need to meet to review what changes need to be made to the Guidelines.

Q: Has data.gov metadata harvesting been restored on a regular schedule? If we update metadata records on our end but they're not harvested by data.gov, there will be a latency.

Lorna: We're still working on harvesting into data.gov but that will be the source for GeoPlatform.

Joel: I think it will be nightly, but I'll check back to see if it can be sooner than that.

Lorna: Another question for the team is whether we can have a trigger? If there was an important modification, could a Dataset Manager have a trigger for that update?

Joel: We'll have to follow up.

### Metadata Review Process

Lorna: Everyone should have gotten an email from me on 1 November on the metadata review process, and an email invitation to join the Microsoft Team room where all of the documentation exists on 5 October. If you are having trouble getting access to the Team room, please email the [NGDATeam@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDATeam@fgdc.gov).

The goal is to ensure smooth ingestion of NGDA metadata into data.gov and geoplatform.gov. Lynda Wayne on our NGDA Portfolio Support Team has done an amazing job reviewing the metadata and documenting the issues. When you go into the Team room, under 'Files' there is an NGDA Metadata Review folder. The goal is for us to use this Team room to share documents.

The first document is the review process and checklist, there is a copy of the email message that was sent out, and a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet has a line for each NGDA by Theme. In column F and G, there are observations about your metadata records and a citation to the section of the Metadata Guidelines for further information on how to fix it. You would go in the spreadsheet and add in any modifications to your record and note any issues. If you need to republish the metadata record, please add the date the revised record was published. Then, the GeoPlatform team can ensure that the revised metadata record is harvested into the GeoPlatform.

Lynda: Please understand that this review was started in May so your record may have been an older version. It may also say no 'direct data download.' We understand that you may have a

large collection of datasets or you have a search utility and you can't have a single data download. That is what the comment column is for so please just add that statement to clarify those issues. One column is an assessment based on the Guidelines, and there is another column that just has general observations. We're here to answer any questions and to help (email [NGDATeam@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDATeam@fgdc.gov)).

Lorna: I understand the previous question better now 'What is the ingestion schema that the GeoPlatform is using for metadata records, and how might we use that schema to make sure that it is also looking for those elements for NGDA?'

Dan: If everything is correct, do we need to comment on anything?

Lorna: If it didn't suggest that you need to make a change, you don't have to comment on anything.

Dan: Where do we find that information? I am in that spreadsheet, but I don't see any comments for CORS.

Lynda: There are comments under Column F. You need to scroll over to see them. Please don't download the spreadsheet and reupload it as we can't manage all the versions.

Lorna: Lynda will be happy to walk anyone through any problems, questions, or issues. We're here to help so please let us know if you have a question or we can help. Email the [NGDATeam@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDATeam@fgdc.gov).

### NGDA Portfolio Changes

Lorna: This slide has the pending NGDA Portfolio changes that we've covered before. Greg, I will follow up with you on the Imagery. For Department of the Interior (DOI) changes pending approval, the process is for Theme Leads to brief their Geospatial Advisory Committee (GAC) members. Once that is done, it will go back to the Steering Committee for vote.

Marcia: For Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs NGDA, have you briefed your GAC member and if so, what does Tod need from us?

Lorna: There is a template word document that simply states: 'what is the dataset and what are the changes?' It wasn't that Tod didn't agree with the changes, but he wanted to be briefed on them first.

**Action:** Lorna follow up with Marcia and other Theme Leads on next steps for pending DOI changes.

### Covered Agency Report

Lorna: We had a Steering Committee meeting last week, and the Covered Agency Report template is back out for additional review by the Steering Committee for additional changes requested. They have until 6 November to decide on those changes.

We also had a meeting this morning to talk about a timeline. We have another meeting tomorrow with the GDA Covered Agency (CA) Team, and we hope to get concurrence from them on the timeline. Once we have that, we'll share that update. For those of you on the Lead Covered Agency Team, we may have some breathing room on those reports, but it will be dependent on the CA Team feedback.

On the Lead Covered Agency report that's also required, we briefed the Steering Committee that we expect to have the template for approval. The template includes providing progress for GDA requirements on geospatial standards, population of the data themes, actions that support the goals and objectives of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan and addressing user needs.

We've been really careful in developing the template; we haven't had time to develop the plans required by the GDA. The annual report is supposed to report progress. So, for this baseline year, the progress is that we spent a lot of time analyzing the GDA, developing the template for the reports, and conducting the NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory. The NSDI Strategic Plan hasn't been published yet. For addressing user needs, our team has been developing a document that highlights use cases gathered from across the community (e.g. NGAC, NGDA, HIFLD, and other use cases). We'd also like you as Data Theme and Dataset Managers to think about whether your agency has use cases that support the management and delivery of NGDA Datasets? If so, please provide any use cases that you are aware of (email them to [NGDATeam@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDATeam@fgdc.gov)). Provide us a link if available, or if not, a document that details them for use with the plans next year.

**Action:** NGDA Theme Leads, Dataset Managers, and Theme Community provide any available 'Use Cases' that describe management and delivery of NGDA Datasets supports the user community.

The template will be a self-assessment. We're hoping to have the template ready for Theme Community review from November 18-25. It will then go to the Steering Committee for a two-week period. Once it is approved, it will be provided to the Theme Leads to begin populating the template. There will be sections in the template that will be prepopulated for you by the NGDA Portfolio Team.

#### NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory

FGDC went back to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and said we cannot report on 'standards in progress' or 'data assets not requiring standards' because the analysis has not been completed yet.

If you haven't completed a baseline survey for your NGDA, I highly encourage that you do. Those numbers will be reported to OMB. Right now, we have 134 datasets out of 173 that have been submitted.

**Action:** Complete the NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory if you have not yet or reach out to [NGDATeam@fgdc.gov](mailto:NGDATeam@fgdc.gov) for assistance.

### NSDI Strategic Plan

It was endorsed by NGAC on 27 October and it is out for Steering Committee vote now.

### Open Discussion

Q: When is the next HIFLD and GeoPlatform Feedback Session going to be?

Joel: It will be pushed back to sometime after the new year, and it will be online.

**Action:** Lorna and Joel follow up on the next Feedback Session and provide details to the Theme Community when available.

Dierdre: In the new year, could we have an intro briefing for new members?

Lorna: Jim Irvine and I started working on a presentation for Theme Lead and Dataset Manager roles, but we got sidetracked by the GDA. We also thought of developing a story map. We could work with the GeoPlatform team on that after the next release.

Dan: I thought that someone developed a chart of how it all fit together?

Lorna: Yes, Ken Shaffer did, and Jim Irvine also developed a flow chart.

**Action:** Lorna follow up on providing background and process information for new Theme Leads and Dataset Managers.

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 1:00-2:30 PM ET